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ASSOCIATION OF
AMERICAN RAILROADS
OFFICE OF INFORMATION AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS
1920 L STREET, N.W. · WASHINGTON, D.C. 20036 · 202/293-4196

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, October 1, 1981 -- Freight traffic on major U.S. railroads during the week ended September 26 totaled an estimated 19.3 billion ton-miles, 9.2 percent below the corresponding week a year ago, the Association of American Railroads reported today.

Cumulative volume for the first 39 weeks of 1981 was an estimated 694.4 billion ton-miles, 1.7 percent higher than the comparable period of last year.

Carloadings in the week ended September 26 totaled 451,898 cars, 0.1 percent above 1980, and virtually the same as the preceding week of this year. Compared with last year, loadings were up 4.5 percent in the East, but down 1.7 percent in the South, and 1.8 percent in the West.

Compared with the corresponding week of 1980, 17 of the 21 commodity groups were down. However, coal and metallic ores were up 18.0 percent and 23.8 percent respectively. Coke was up 69.7 percent.

Eleven of the 21 groups were up from the preceding week of this year.

Piggyback

The AAR also reported that piggyback freight traffic on major railroads during the week ended September 19 totaled 34,114 cars, up 2.0 percent from the corresponding week of 1980, and 63,656 trailers and/or containers, up 7.4 percent from last year.

The cumulative volume of TOFC/COFC traffic for the first 38 weeks of the year was 1,233,208 cars, 1.6 percent higher than last year, and 2,232,825 trailers and/or containers, 1.1 percent higher than last year.

(more)

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Following are carloadings of major railroads, by commodity groups, for the week ended 9/26/81:

	Loadings in Week ended September 26, 1981		Change from Corresponding Week 1980			Change from Preceding Week	
	Cars		Cars	Percent		Cars	Percent
Grain	24,729	D	7,767	23.9	D	2,422	8.9
Other farm products	4,411	D	2	0.0	I	402	10.0
Metallic ores	33,318	I	6,412	23.8	D	4,869	12.8
Coal	137,565	I	20,956	18.0	I	3,277	2.4
Crushed stone, gravel and sand	13,022	D	1,967	13.1	I	85	0.7
Nonmetallic minerals	13,918	D	2,025	12.7	D	391	2.7
Grain mill products	14,950	D	2,788	15.7	D	11	0.1
Food and kindred products	15,907	D	3,084	16.2	I	163	1.0
Primary forest products	19,026	D	230	1.2	I	693	3.8
Lumber and wood products except furniture	7,361	D	2,031	21.6	I	440	6.4
Pulp, paper and allied products	18,976	D	2,627	12.2	D	61	0.3
Chemicals and allied products	25,592	D	1,837	6.7	I	671	2.7
Petroleum products	5,050	D	395	7.3	D	198	3.8
Stone, clay and glass products	13,428	D	3,022	18.4	D	175	1.3
Coke	6,820	I	2,801	69.7	I	146	2.2
Metals and products	15,568	D	17	0.1	I	427	2.8
Motor vehicles and equipment	14,360	D	3,105	17.8	D	147	1.0
Waste and scrap materials	11,881	D	139	1.2	D	262	2.2
Forwarder and shipper association traffic	10,112	D	1,373	12.0	I	604	6.4
All other carloads	45,691	I	2,571	6.0	I	1,435	3.2
LCL traffic	213	D	35	14.1	D	31	12.7
Total Cars Loaded	451,898	I	296	0.1	D	224	0.0
Corresponding week of 1980	451,602						

	1981	1980	% Change	
Total Cars Loaded (39 weeks)	16,358,484	16,944,230	D	3.5
Estimated revenue ton-miles (in billions):				
38 Weeks cumulative	675.1	664.9	I	1.5
Week ended September 26	19.3	17.6	I	9.2
39 Weeks cumulative	694.4	682.6	I	1.7

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October 2, 1981

ERRATA NOTICE

Through a clerical error, freight traffic for the week ended September 26 was reported as being 9.2 percent below the corresponding week a year ago. In fact, rail freight traffic showed a 9.2 percent improvement.

We regret the inconvenience.

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